

## Wyatt, Rosie

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**From:** terre thomas <terra12@cruzio.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 15, 2025 2:09 PM  
**To:** City Council  
**Subject:** Resubmittal of Letter dated April 11th

I am resubmitting my letter so it will show up in the agenda packet for April 17th, as I will not be in town for the meeting.

Thank You, Terre Thomas

April 10, 2025

To: The City Council of Capitola CA

Re: RTC Desire to Have the Trail on Park Avenue

Dear Council Members,

I am Terre Thomas, a 52 year resident living on Park Avenue.

Since we will be out of town for the Special Council meeting on the 17<sup>th</sup>, I am here to voice my serious concerns about putting the proposed Option A or B RTC Trail on Park Avenue. Not only is Park Avenue a speed corridor, because it is rarely patrolled, but it already has a sidewalk and two bike lanes.

These Options will cause the loss of 26 parking spaces, and removal of nearly all the trees along the street. (They are home to owls, hawks, crows, and other birds, and frequented by osprey, eagles, and various floor dwellers.) That will obviously necessitate installing a retaining wall to keep the compromised hillside in place. So you may as well stick with the original plan of putting the Trail on the Coastal side of the tracks.

The Train proposal is getting more and more expensive, and might become operable maybe 30 years from now. Measure D funds are being eaten up by cost overruns on Highway 1. We don't need more taxes or bond measures to pay these escalating prices, and the current federal government may not be inclined to contribute. I believe that buses would be a more precise alternative to train service to and from Watsonville.

At the April 3<sup>rd</sup> RTC meeting, which I listened to, it was directed by a board member that the staff come back soon with a full explanation of Rail Banking, hopefully at their next meeting May 1<sup>st</sup> here in Capitola.

I am asking, no begging, you to postpone any decision regarding placement of the Trail until the issue of Rail Banking is fully disclosed and resolved. It may be possible to Rail Bank the Trestle and Park Avenue, thus saving our town now from over congestion. Don't let the RTC rush you in to making a decision because of their funding and timing issues. If that is the case, then I hope you decide to stick to the original plan of a Coastal Trail that has already been designed, and is in the EIR.

For the RTC to rush you, our representatives, to decide now, is not your problem. You must do what is best for Capitola, and that is to understand ALL the alternatives before you make a permanent decision.

Thank you for your consideration in doing the right thing for us.